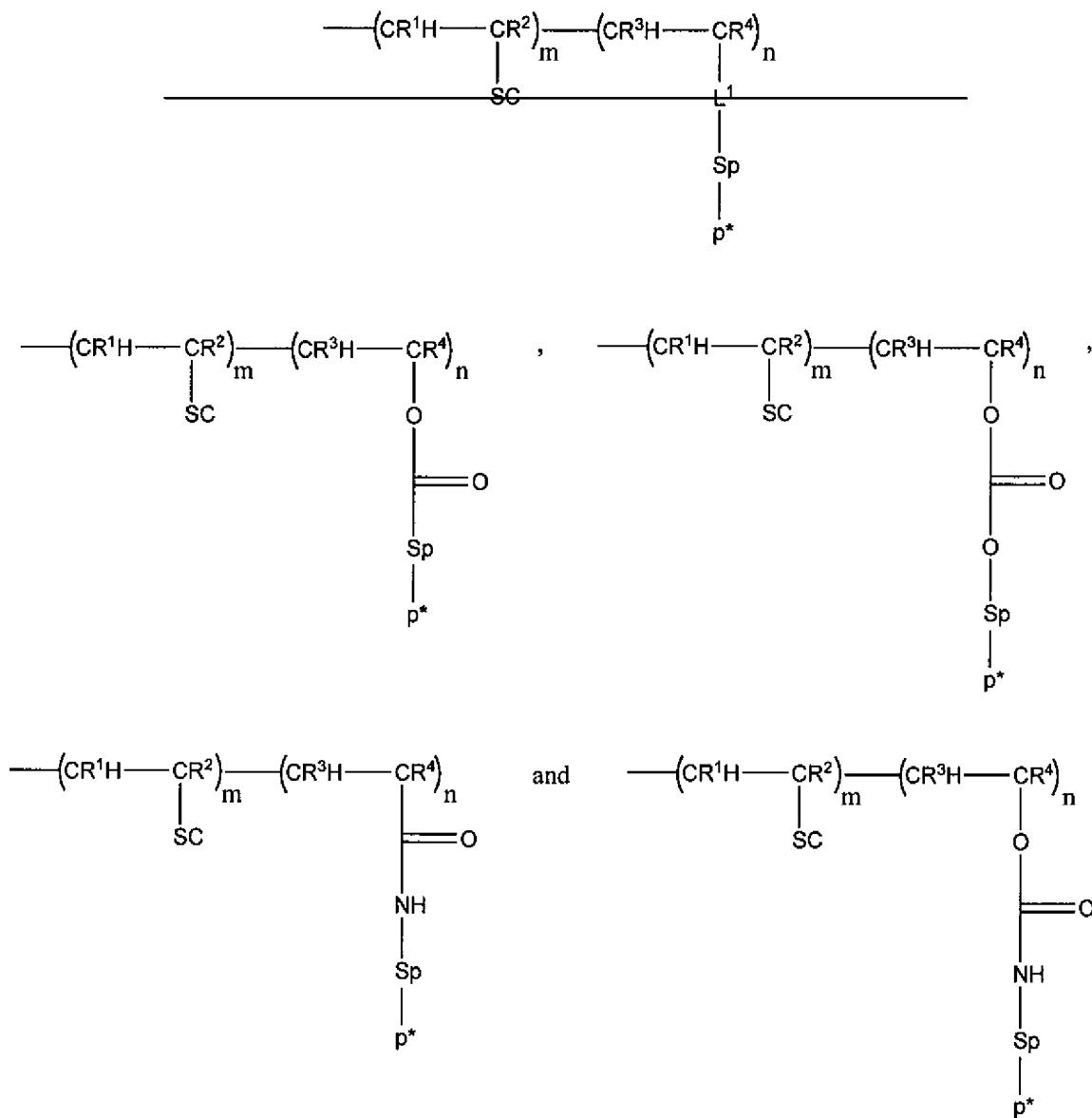


This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the a formula selected from:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units;

L^+ is selected from $\text{O}(\text{CO})$, $\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{O}$, $-(\text{CO})\text{NH}$, $-\text{O}(\text{CO})\text{NH}$, $-\text{S}\text{S}$, $-\text{S}(\text{CO})$, and $-(\text{CO})\text{S}$, wherein $-$ represents the bond through which L^+ attaches to the polymer backbone;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

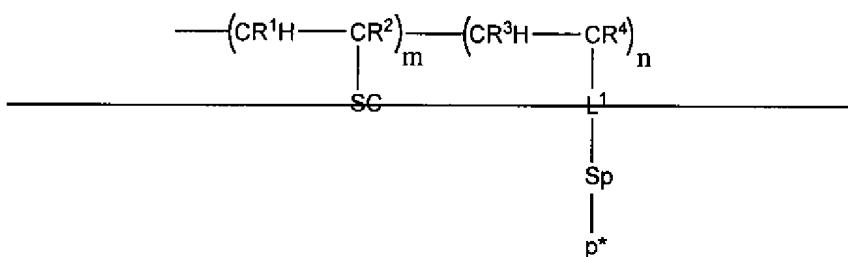
P^* is a polar moiety.

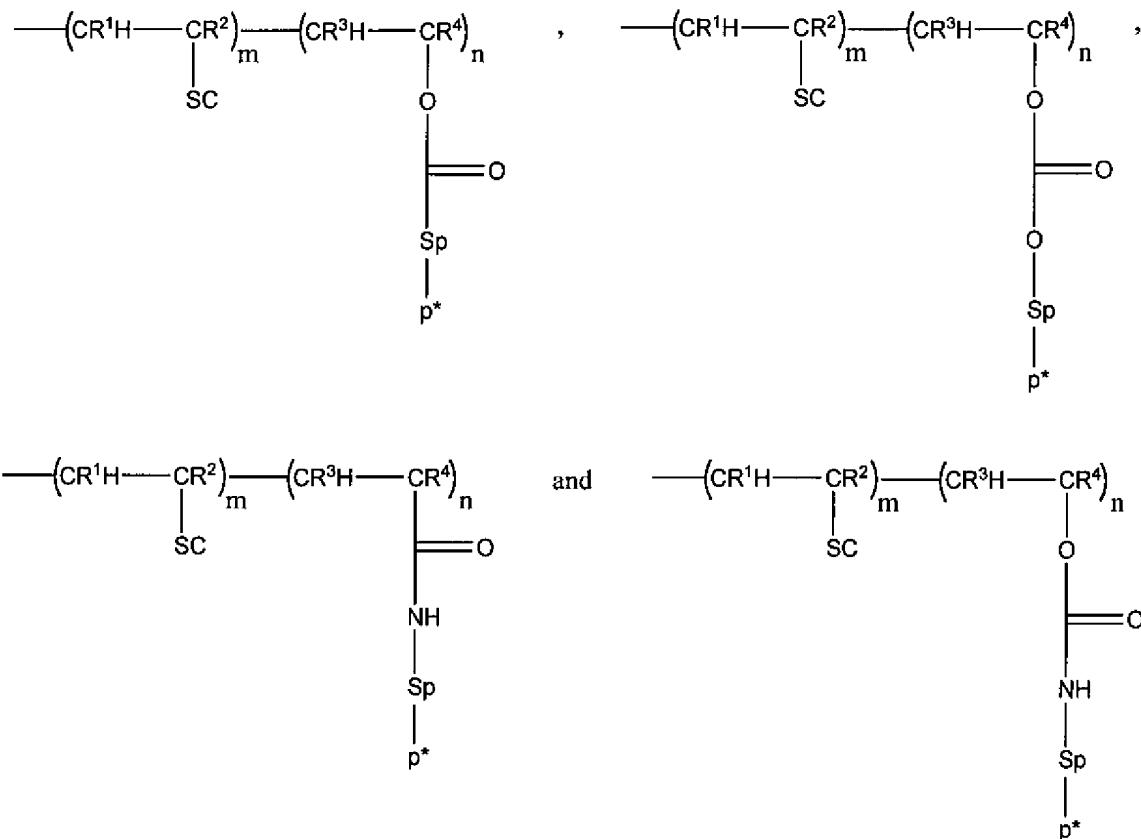
39. (Canceled).

40. (Original) The polymer of claim 38, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000, and the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

41-90 (Canceled).

91. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having the a formula selected from:





where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a hydrophilic side chain;

L^+ is selected from $O(CO)$, $O(CO)O$, $(CO)NH$, $O(CO)NH$, $S-S$, $-S(CO)$, and $-(CO)S$, wherein $-$ represents the bond through which L^+ attaches to the polymer backbone;

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

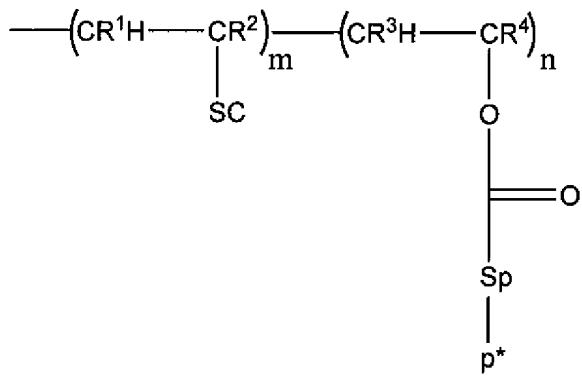
p^* is a polar moiety.

92. (Canceled).

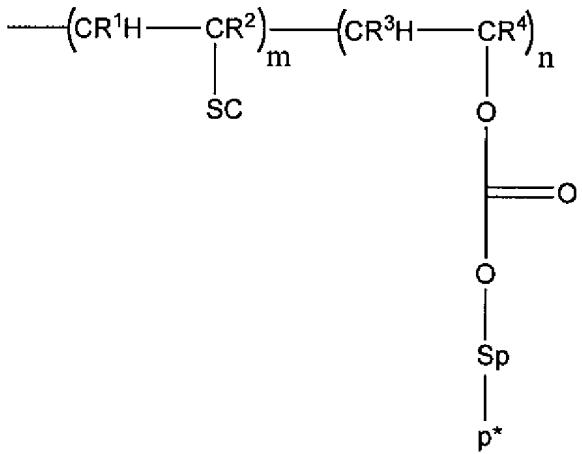
93. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are hydrogen.

94. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is selected from methyl and hydroxymethyl.

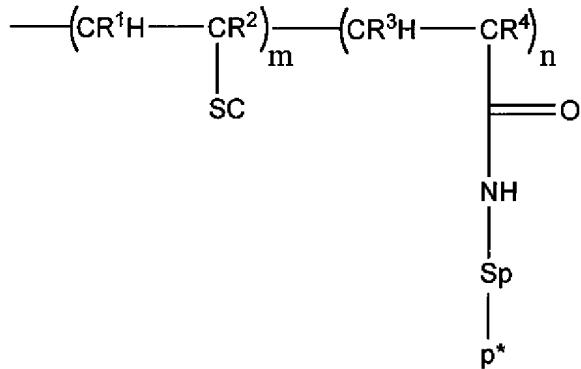
95. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is



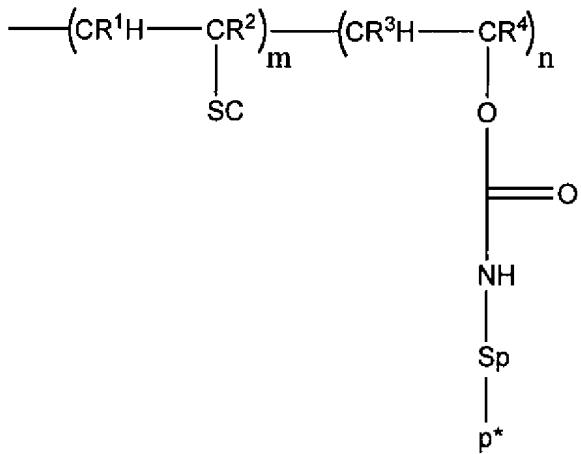
96. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is



97. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is



98. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is



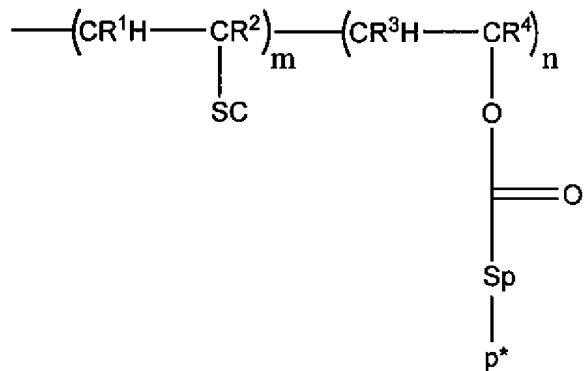
99. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein p* is a hydroxyl group.

100. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000.

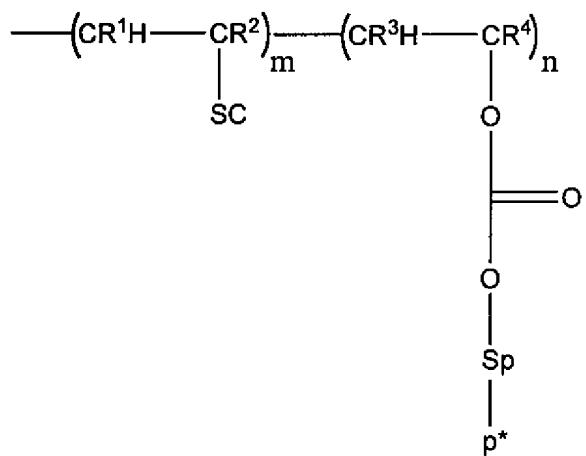
101. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are hydrogen.

102. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is selected from methyl and hydroxymethyl.

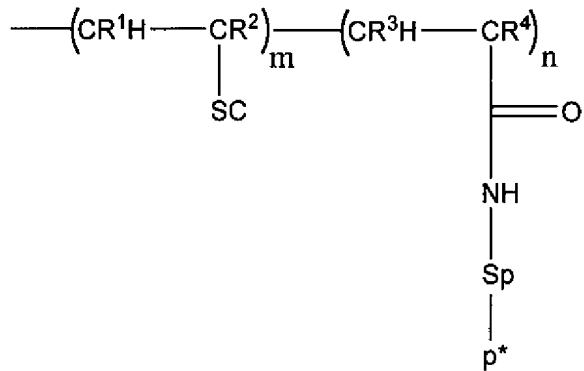
103. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



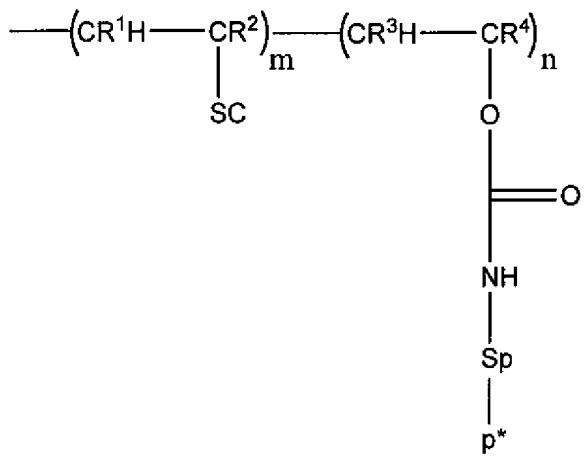
104. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



105. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



106. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



107. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein p* is a hydroxyl group.